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CLUB DATA FROM EXTENSION STUDIES

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CLUB DATA FROM EXTENSION STUDIES

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The extension studies, which have been conducted in cooperation with the extension services of 10 States* furnish considerable data on many problems connected with boys' and girls' club work.

Size of the Club Problem

Children under 21 years of age living at home were found on 67 per cent of the nearly 8,000 farms and homes concerning which comparable information was obtained. (Table 1.) Forty-five per cent of all the homes studied had children between the ages of 10 to 20 years inclusive. The total number of children of all ages in these families was 15,223, and of this number 7,756 or 51 per cent were of suitable age to participate in 4-H club activities. Another way of stating the size of the club problem is to say that there was an average of approximately 1 child of club age for every farm located in the areas studied. As the 21 different areas studied are thought to be representative, the standard of 1 boy or girl of club age per farm may be reasonably accurate for measuring the club problem in a county in so far as the boys and girls of the open country are concerned.

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*Iowa, New York, Colorado, California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Georgia, Wisconsin, Arkansas, and South Dakota.

Number Reached by Club Work

The membership in 4-H clubs at the time the data were collected was equivalent to 12 per cent of the children of club age. The total number of boys and girls on the farms who had ever engaged in club work was equal to 28 per cent of the children of club age. The percentages of boys and girls of club age in club work from these individual States are given in Table 2. The highest percentage of present club members was found in State A, and the highest percentage of boys and girls of club age ever in club work in State F.

Table 1. - Size of the club problem - 10 States

Item	Number	Percentage
Farm and home records obtained--------------	7,944	100
Families with children----------------------	5,343	67
Number of children under 21 years on farms--	15,223	100
Families with children of club age (10 to 20 years)-----------------------	3,606	45
Farms and homes represented in club work----	1,399	18
Children of club age (10 to 20 years)-------	7,756	51

Table 2. - Percentage of boys and girls in club work

State	Percentage boys and girls 10 to 20 years ever in club work	Percentage boys and girls 10 to 20 years now in club work
A--------------	38.6	24.6
C--------------	21.0	6.4
D--------------	38.3	16.9
E--------------	20.0*	10.3*
F--------------	54.4	22.4
G--------------	24.7	5.7
H--------------	40.1	14.8
I--------------	16.7	6.5
J--------------	14.1	5.3
10 States** .	28.2	11.8

* Approximate.

**State B is included in the total but is not listed above.

Table 3. - Age of club members, length of time in club work, and number of projects carried on

State	Average age of present club members	Average years in club work	Projects undertaken per club member
A-------------	14.4	1.8	1.3
C-------------	12.9	1.9	1.2
D-------------	14.5	2.0	1.2
E-------------	14.2	1.7	1.2
F-------------	12.6	1.5	1.6
G-------------	12.9	2.2	1.0
H-------------	12.2	1.8	1.2
I-------------	14.2	1.4	1.2
J-------------	14.1	1.8	1.1
10 States*.	13.8	1.8	1.2

*State B is included in total but is not listed above.

The lowest average age of club members was slightly more than 12 years, and the highest average age nearly 15 years.

Length of Time in Club Work and Number of Projects Carried On

The average length of time that all club members in the 10 States had been in club work was 1.8 years (table 3), and the number of projects undertaken during this time averaged 1.2. The longest period club members remained in club work on the average was 2.2 years. The average number of projects carried on was highest, 1.6, in State F, and lowest, 1.0, in State G.

School Attendance and Club Work

In 5 of the States in which extension studies have been made information was obtained regarding the school attendance of farm boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 20 years inclusive. (Table 4.) Nearly 4 out of every 5 boys and girls between these ages living on farms were found to be in school. The variation in the 5 States was from 66 per cent in J, to 84 per cent in A. Of those participating in club work at the time of the field work 5 per cent were not attending school. The lowest percentage of club members not in school was 2 per cent in D, and the highest, 17 per cent in State J. Evidently club work is more closely associated with the public-school organization in A, D, and F, than in G, I, and J,

Table 4. - School attendance and club work

State	Percentage children 10 to 20 years of age in school	Percentage of present club members not in school	Percentage of out-of-school boys and girls of club age in club work
A----------	83.9	7.5	10.5
D----------	81.1	1.7	1.2
F----------	79.8	1.9	2.2
G----------	----	14.7	----
I----------	76.5	11.8	3.3
J----------	66.1	16.6	2.2
	5 States ..79.3	6 States ..5.0	5 States.. 3.6

Looking at the matter from the point of view of the proportion of the boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age out of school who are reached by club work, one finds that, at the time the field data were collected in the various States, slightly less than 4 per cent of the out-of-school boys and girls of club age were enrolled in club work. (Table 4.) This is about one-third the percentage of all boys and girls of club age who were engaged in club work at that time. The highest percentage of out-of-school boys and girls reached by 4-H club work was 10.5 in A, and the lowest percentage 1.2 in D.

Considering the fact that in many cases the reasons why so many boys and girls of club age are out of school also preclude their participation in club projects, it is probable that the present ratio of club members out of school to club members in school is not far out of line.

Influence of Junior Result Demonstrations on Farm and Home Practices

An important objective of 4-H club work is the demonstration of improved farm and home practices through the home project work of the club members. In Table 5 a comparison is made between the number of better practices reported adopted on the farms and in the homes studied due to the influence of junior result demonstrations. For the combined areas studied in the 10 States, junior result demonstrations were reported to have influenced the adoption of an average of approximately 4 practices for every 10 club members. The variation for the 10 States is from 1 practice for 9 club members in E, to 1 practice for every 2 club members in D.

Table 5. - Relationship of number of club members to the number of practices adopted due to junior result demonstrations

State	Club members	Practices adopted due to junior result demonstrations	Practices adopted per club member
A-------------------	342	180	.52
C-------------------	188	70	.37
D-------------------	489	236	.48
E-------------------	121	14	.11
F-------------------	371	148	.40
G-------------------	121	56	.46
H-------------------	344	115	.33
I-------------------	87	16	.18
J-------------------	56	20	.36
10 States*.......	2,191	868	.39

*State B not listed above is included in the total.

In the detailed study of club work in the Massachusetts area, which is about average for the 10 States in the number of practices adopted per club member due to junior result demonstrations, it was learned that junior result demonstrations influenced the adoption of practically 70 per cent of all the better farm and home practices taken up as the result of all phases of club work. (Table 6.) It would seem, therefore, that club work is relatively a much less potent influence in bringing about the acceptance of improved farm and home practices by adults than many extension workers have thought, but in the aggregate does have a substantial influence in changing farm home practices.

Table 6. - Methods which influenced changes in practices (Massachusetts)

Item	Number	Percentage
Practices changed as a result of club work----	214	100.0
Changed practices due to influence of following methods employed in junior extension work:		
Result demonstrations-----------------------	148	69.1
Bulletins-----------------------------------	43	20.1
Method demonstrations-----------------------	27	12.6
Meetings------------------------------------	22	10.3
Farm and home visits------------------------	8	3.7
Exhibits------------------------------------	6	2.8
Indirect------------------------------------	5	2.3
Correspondence------------------------------	3	1.4
Circular letter-----------------------------	2	.9
News stories--------------------------------	2	.9

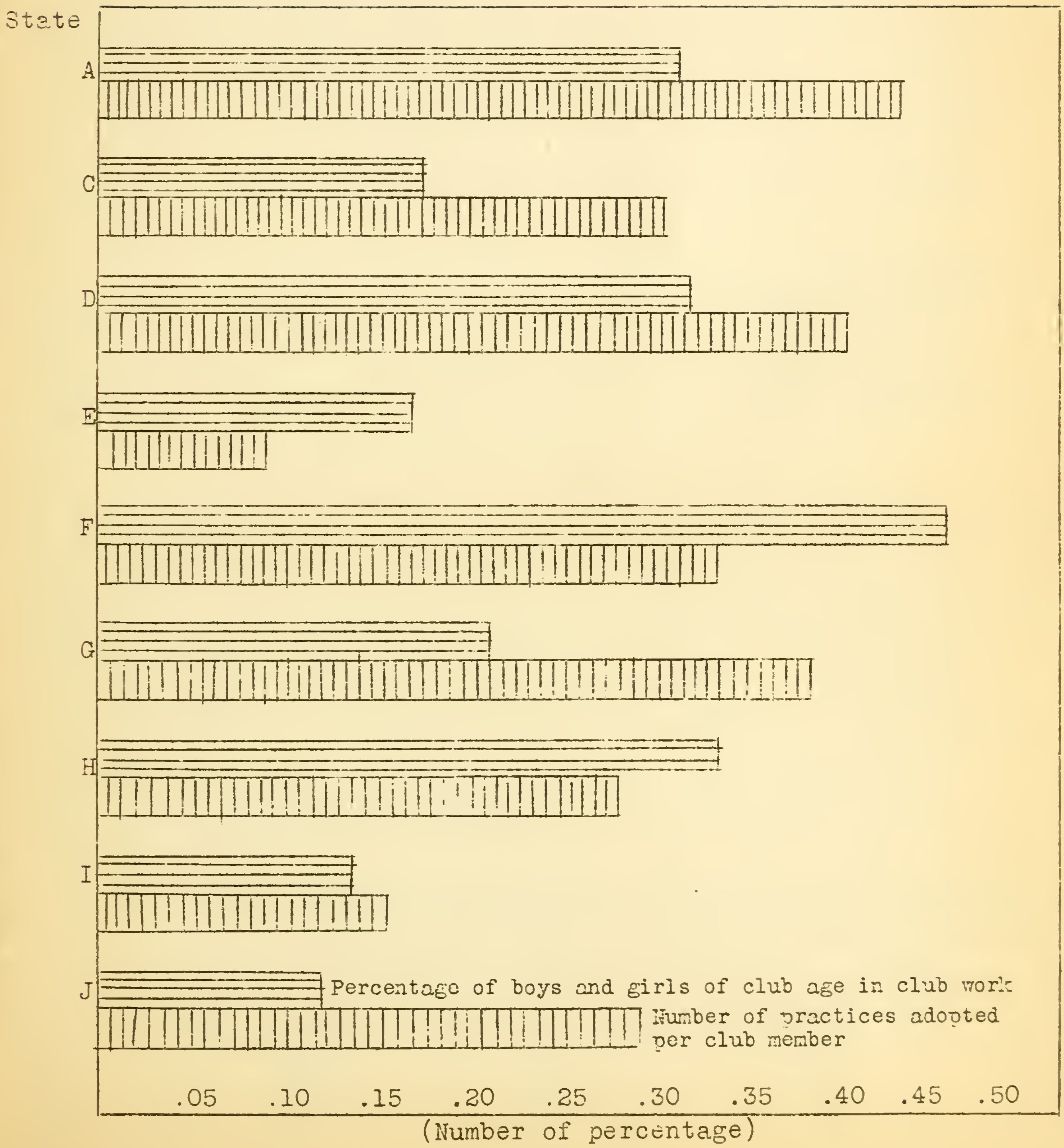

Fig. 1. Relationship of Club Membership and Adoption of Practices Due to Junior Result Demonstrations

Volume of Club Work as Affecting Quality

Volume of club work may be expressed readily by the number or percentage of boys and girls enrolled. Quality of club work is much more difficult of measurement. In fact, it is impossible to measure, according to any standards we now have, the influence of junior extension work upon the individual club members involved and upon the farm and home practices of succeeding generations. The more or less immediate influence of the home project work of club members upon the practices of adults can be approximated, however. The relationship between the percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age who have participated in club work, and the average number of improved practices adopted per club member due to junior result demonstrations, is brought out in Fig. 1. It will be noted that in every case where the percentage of boys and girls participating was high, the number of practices adopted per club member was also high as in States A, D, F, and H.

In nearly every case where the percentage of boys and girls involved in club work was small, as in States E and I, the number of practices adopted per club member was also small. Reducing the volume of club work in order to improve the quality is sometimes suggested. This theory does not seem to work out in actual practice, however, for the States with large enrollments have on the average as large or larger number of practices adopted per club member as States with small enrollments.

Age of Club Members as Related to Adoption of Practices by Adults

The average age of club members in the 10 States varied from slightly more than 12 years to slightly less than 15 years. (Table 7.) The question is sometimes raised why the demonstrations conducted by the younger age groups can not be expected to have so great an influence upon the practices of adults as the demonstrations carried on by the older boys and girls. The relationship of these 2 factors is brought out in Fig. 2. The States above the average in number of practices adopted per club member are about equally distributed in the above average and below average age groups, indicating that age of club members as a factor in influencing the adoption of improved practices by adults is largely overshadowed by other conditions.

Table 7.-Percentage of boys and girls (10 to 20 years) in club work, and practices adopted per club member -(10 States)

State	Percentage boys & girls 10 to 20 years ever in club work	Average age of present club members	Practices adopted per club member due to junior result demonstrations
A--------	38.6	14.4	.52
C--------	21.0	12.9	.37
D--------	38.0	14.5	.48
E--------	20.0*	14.2	.11
F--------	54.4	12.6	.40
G--------	24.7	12.9	.46
H--------	40.1	12.2	.33
I--------	16.7	14.2	.18
J--------	14.1	14.1	.36
10 States	28.2	13.8	.39

* Approximate.

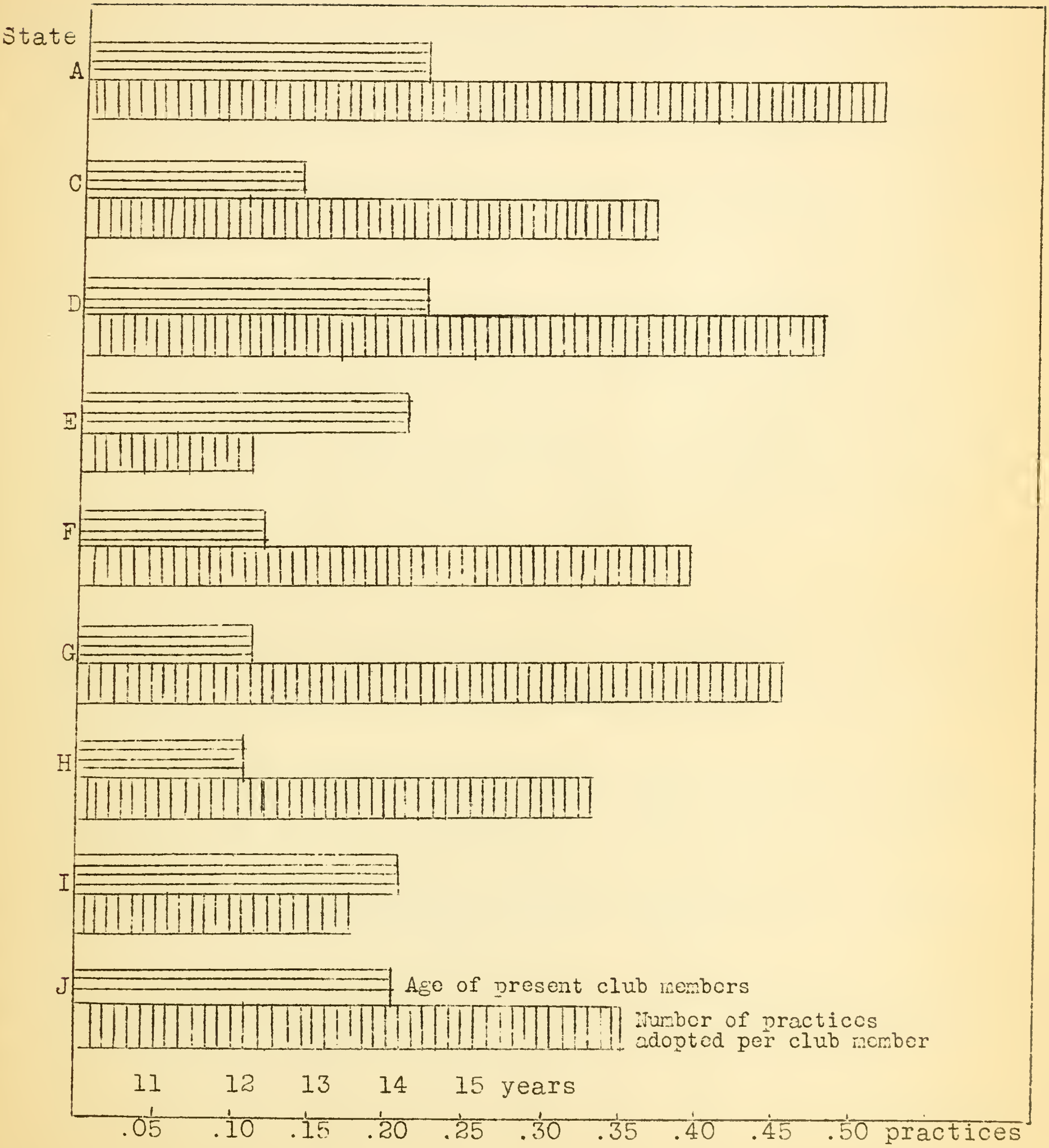

Fig. 2. Age of Club Members as Related to Number of Practices Adopted Due to Junior Result Demonstrations

SUMMARY

Based upon the information derived from the study of 7,944 farms and homes in 10 States, it appears that:

There is on the average approximately 1 boy or girl 10 to 20 years of age, inclusive, for every farm and farm home.

One boy or girl out of every 8 of club age on farms was in club work at the time the field data were collected. Slightly more than 1 out of 4 either were or had been in club work.

The average age of club members at the time the studies were made was 13.8 years. Considering both present and past club members the average boy or girl remained in club work 1.8 years and participated in 1.2 different projects.

Seventy-nine per cent of all children 10 to 20 years of age on the farms studied in 5 States were in school. Of those enrolled in club work at the time of the study, an average of 5 per cent were not in school. Of those not in school at the time the field information was collected, 3.6 per cent were then in club work.

The home project work of the club members (junior result demonstration) was reported as having influenced the adoption by adults of two improved practices for every five club members. Extension leaders may well devote attention to devising ways and means of making the demonstrational side of club work more effective.

Generally speaking the larger the volume of club work the higher the quality as measured by the number of improved practices adopted by adults due to junior result demonstrations.

The number of improved practices adopted due to the influence of demonstrations by club members does not seem to increase with increased age of club members.

Enrolling more boys and girls and older boys and girls and keeping them in club work longer will to a large extent automatically meet the problem of reaching more of the boys and girls outside school classrooms through 4-H club work.

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